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FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1607-0260P
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/049824</b> NEW
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/KR00/00922	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE August 18, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED August 19, 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD OF TREATING INCINERATION ASHES WITH SULFATE REDUCING BACTERIA			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US JUNG, Kweon			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1).</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). WO 01/14261</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol>			
Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Form PTO-1449(s), and International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) with 4 cited document(s).</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409)</li> <li>2.) Form PCT/IB/304</li> <li>3.) Form PCT/IB/308</li> <li>4.) Eight (8) Sheets of Formal Drawings</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

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PATENT  
1607-0260P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: JUNG, Kweon  
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/KR00/00922  
Appl. No.: New Group:  
Filed: February 19, 2002 Examiner:  
For: METHOD OF TREATING INCINERATION  
ASHES WITH SULFATE REDUCING  
BACTERIA

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

February 19, 2002

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/KR00/00922 which has an International filing date of August 18, 2000, which designated the United States of America and was published in English.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAK/rem  
1607-0260P

**METHOD OF TREATING INCINERATION ASHES WITH SULFATE**  
**REDUCING BACTERIA**

**Technical Field**

5       The present invention relates to a method of treating the incineration ash containing the heavy metal and the wastewater sludge, and more particularly, to a method comprising the steps of making the heavy metals existing in the incineration ashes insoluble, stabilizing the organic materials and separating from the ashes, and burying them in the conventional structure used for burying the plants. And such process is based  
10       on the reasonable plan considering the mutual relations between the properties.

**Background Art**

      The method of disposing the solid wastes recently causes an additional problem of city life since the method depends mainly on burying them under the ground. However, it  
15       is scarcely possible to secure a vast area of ground enough to bury the wastes even in the countries having the small territory in area such as Korea. Therefore, as an alternative plan, a method of treating the wastes by combusting them has been proposed for extending the effective life of the ground to bury in.

      In case that the wastes are incinerated and buried in the ground, an advantage that  
20       the effective life of landfill may be extended by reducing the volume of trash to be buried may be achieved.

      Generally, there have been proposed two types of methods of treating the incineration ash, one of which is the conventional solidification method carried out by mixing the solidifier and the incineration ash together with the additional water in a mixer,

and then solidifying the mixture. And a chemical method of solid stabilization by adding a certain chemical agent to the incineration ash to stabilize the heavy metals existing in the ash.

However, the conventional solidification method has several defects as follows:

5 1) The effect of reducing the volume of incineration ash is not significant, 2) since the heavy metal in the cement may be eluded out depending pH value, the possibility of elution of the heavy metal is great, and 3) the cost for treatment is also high. The chemical method also has the defects that: 1) the expensive chemicals (chelating agents) should be used; 2) another possible problem causing another contamination may be  
10 caused due to using those chemicals (chelating agents); and 3) the possibility of elution of the heavy metal depending on pH is still high.

It is shown in the Fig.1 and 2 attached herein that the defects of the prior art, depict the amount of heavy metal contained in the incineration ash and the amount of elution, respectively. And Fig. 2 shows the result of elution test carried out by TCLP method.

15 Fig. 1 shows the amount of total contents of heavy metal, which the heavy metal contained in the incineration ash comprises 15 936 mg/kg of Pb, 620 mg/kg of Cd, 1.662 mg/kg of Cu, 20.311 mg/kg of Zn and so forth, which is relatively great amount.

Furthermore, as a result of analyzing the elements of incineration ash, it was detected that the incineration ash contained little nitrogen (N) and up to 3.997% of sulfur.

20 Fig.2 shows the amount of elution of heavy metal, which the heavy metal eluded from the incineration ash comprises 12.51 mg/l of Pb, 17.03 mg/l of Cd, 5.90 mg/l of Cu, 302.19 mg/l of Zn etc., which significantly exceeds the current standard allowed by the government.

As mentioned above, a little amounts of heavy metals incinerated is not essentially

removed from the ash during the incineration process but it is just being concentrated and still existing in the incinerated ash (as being the fly ash as well as the ash lain on the bottom). And if entrapped by the dust collector, its concentration becomes much higher than that has not gone through the incineration. The heavy metals contained in the fly ash and the ash lain on the bottom may be eluded by the rain water when filled in the landfill, and become the leachate, which may cause the secondary contamination of soil and underground water. Therefore, a suitable control and/or treatment are required in order to avoid such contamination.

#### Disclosure of Invention

It is therefore the object of the present invention to provide an essential method for treatment of the incineration ash, which may solve above problems

The present invention provides a method of treating the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge (hereinafter, called as "incineration ash"), both of which contain a certain amounts of heavy metals, which comprises the steps of converting the heavy metals contained in the incineration ash into an insoluble state, using a safe manner, in order to prevent the exuding of the heavy metals from the incineration ash outwardly when eluded.

The present invention also provides a method for treatment of the incineration ash by burying together with together with organic wastes, which comprises treating the incineration ash with sulfate-reducing bacteria, which may be provided by the organic wastes containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria.

To accomplish above object, the present invention provides a method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, wherein a mutual relation in using

nutrients exists between the incineration ash containing the heavy metal and the organic wastes containing the wastewater sludge and sulfate-reducing bacteria, which comprises: burying the incineration ash together with the organic wastes under the ground, in which the bacteria reduce the sulfates existing in the incineration ash to form the sulfides, and binding the formed sulfides with the heavy metal to form the insoluble metal sulfides, in order to prevent the heavy metal from exuding out of the incineration ash as eluate.

The present invention also provides a method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, comprising: burying the incineration ash together with the organic wastes containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria under the ground, and covering them with a depth of soil, so that the said sulfate-reducing bacteria promote the heavy metal to precipitate in the form of insoluble metal sulfides, in order to prevent the heavy metal from exuding out of the incineration ash as eluate.

The present invention further provides a method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, which comprises: collecting and mixing the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash and the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria in a disposal plant, and reacting both the aqueous eluates so that the said sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste deposits the heavy metals from the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash as the insoluble metal sulfides, resulting in the disposal of the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash and the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste.

Furthermore, according to an aspect of the invention, the said organic wastes may comprise the sewage sludge containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria.

The present invention will be described hereinafter by referring to attached



drawings.

The present invention provides a method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, which is carried out by reducing the large amount of sulfates in the incineration ash into the sulfides, binding the sulfides with the heavy metals from the incineration ash, and precipitating and removing the insoluble metal sulfides as formed.

Fig. 3 shows the result of analysis for the elements of the incineration ash by use of element analyzer. As seen from the Fig.3, a large amount of sulfur element exists in the incineration ash.

The element sulfur binds with oxygen in the incineration ash, and exists in the form of sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) in the solution containing the incineration ash.

The mechanism of binding the heavy metal with sulfur in the incineration ash by the sulfate-reducing bacteria will be explained hereinafter referring to Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 shows the pathway through which the sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) is to be reduced into sulfides ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ ) by the sulfate-reducing bacteria.

The sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) in the incineration ash is reduced to the sulfides ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ ) by the sulfate-reducing bacteria, and the sulfides bind to the elemental heavy metal to form the precipitate including the insoluble metal sulfides.

In general, the sulfate-reducing bacterium is a kind of anaerobic bacterium, and produces the energy by utilizing lactic acids, resulting in the formation of acetic acid and so forth as the metabolic products. According to this manner, the sulfate-reducing bacteria reduce the sulfates through the anabolic pathway for decomposition of organic compounds.

Furthermore, the sulfate-reducing bacteria can also decompose fatty acids such as palmitic acid as well as the aromatic compounds such as benzoic acid or phenol.

A variety of the sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in the ecosystem on earth require a large amount of energy for decomposing the stable salt such as sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ ), and take its role as the final decomposer of the organic compounds likely the methane bacterium in the ecosystem.

5 In other words, the sulfate-reducing bacteria reduce the sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ ) as being the inorganic compound, which acts as the electron receptor under the anaerobic condition in the biological environment, to the sulfides ( $\text{S}^{-2}$ , HS or  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ), wherein the organic compounds as being used as the electron donor are oxidized. And, the formed sulfides ( $\text{S}^{-2}$ , HS or  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) and the heavy metal in the incineration ash bind together due to having  
10 the attraction between them, and precipitated.

Since the metal sulfides formed during the process of reducing sulfates are very stable due to having the solubility significantly lower than metal oxides, metal hydroxides or metal carboates, there is no risk of re-elution. Most heavy metals can form the metal sulfides through the reaction with sulfates under the general anaerobic condition. In  
15 particular, even Mn, Zn and Al and so forth, which hardly precipitates as the forms of hydroxides or carboates, may react with the sulfides, to form a stable compound and to be stabilized.

The heavy metals may exist in the form of salts or simple substances in the landfills of trash or wastes. The heavy metals existing as the dissolved form in the landfills of  
20 trash or wastes may move as the ionic state, and such pathway for the heavy metal to be insolubilized may be called to comprise the steps of adsorption and precipitation. The adsorbed heavy metals can move again when the adsorption reaches the saturation point or the adsorbents are decomposed. Therefore, it may be mentioned that the final insolubilization of heavy metals in the landfill is mainly carried out by the precipitation.

The metal sulfides formed by binding sulfides and heavy metals may be the stable compounds in the solid form, unless being affected by the external condition such as aerobic environment or low pH value. The reason is that since the solubility of metal sulfides is extremely low, the heavy metal scarcely eluded from the metal sulfides. In the meantime, the landfills filled with the trash and/or wastes usually provide the anaerobic or almost anaerobic condition and pH ranging from 6 to 10. Therefore, once the metal sulfides formed, they are not re-eluded.

The solubility products of metal sulfides at 25°C are provided in Table 1 as shown below:

**Table 1**

Metal Sulfides	$K_{sp}$
$Ag_2S$	$6.3 \times 10^{-50}$
$CdS$	$8.0 \times 10^{-27}$
$CoS$	$4.0 \times 10^{-21}$
$CuS$	$6.0 \times 10^{-36}$
$FeS$	$6.0 \times 10^{-18}$
$HgS$	$1.6 \times 10^{-52}$
$MnS$	$2.5 \times 10^{-10}$
$NiS$	$3.0 \times 10^{-19}$
$PbS$	$2.5 \times 10^{-50}$
$SnS$	$1.0 \times 10^{-25}$
$ZnS$	$1.1 \times 10^{-21}$

As seen from Table 1, it is found that most of all metal sulfides remain as the almost stable compounds in solid form, and the elution occurs only in extremely few cases.

Fig 5 shows the insolubility of heavy metals caused by the sulfate-reducing bacteria. The initial concentrations of the heavy metal were set as follows: 20mg/l of Hg,

10mg/l of Cd, 10mg/l of Pb, 10mg/l of Ni, 5mg/l of Cu and 10mg/l of Mn

According to the result of experiment, within a quarter of a day, more than 50% amounts of most heavy metal was removed by the sulfate-reducing bacteria, and in particular, in case of heavy metals such as Cu, Hg, Pb or Cd, 99% or more amounts of heavy metals were removed.

The result of experiment shows that the heavy metals contained in the incineration ash can be insolubilized by precipitating them as metal sulfides. As a result, it is expected that the possible contamination of soil and underground water due to the elution of heavy metal in the treatment of incineration ash can significantly be decreased.

The present invention uses the sulfate-reducing bacteria in order to solidify the harmful heavy metal contained in the incineration ash into the precipitates in the stable form of metal sulfides. In this regard, since like the most of organism, the sulfate-reducing bacteria also use the energy, which has been obtained during the anabolism such as the decomposition of organic compounds, a certain organic material should also be provided in order to utilize the metabolism of the sulfate-reducing bacteria. Since the sulfate-reducing bacteria use the various organic compounds as the carbon source, they are in the advantageous position relative to the other microorganisms in an aspect of competition for securing the organic compounds.

Since the sulfate-reducing bacteria is an anaerobic or at least almost anaerobic microorganism, an anaerobic or at least almost anaerobic condition should be provided for the sulfate-reducing bacteria to grow in the said environment. As a matter of fact, the sulfate-reducing bacteria may be distributed to a high density in an organic waste in which an anaerobic condition of ecological environment has been set up.

The representative examples of the organic waste in which the sulfate-reducing

bacteria exist include the sewage sludge, the drainage sludge, the dirty riverbed sludge and so forth (hereinafter, called as "sewage sludge").

The reason for the sulfate-reducing bacteria to exist in the sewage sludge to a high density is the anaerobic condition provided by the sewage sludge as well as the sufficient amount of organic compounds contained in the sewage sludge, which the sulfate-reducing bacteria decompose in order to obtain the energy.

Table 2 was provided to explain the latest fact, in which the result of analyzing elements sampled from the sewage sludge obtained from the various sewage disposal plants.

**Table 2**

Sludge sampled from	C(%)	H(%)	N(%)	S(%)
Nanji septic plant	42.838	6.118	4.176	0.944
Nanji sewage 1	18.082	3.131	2.622	1.295
Nanji sewage 2	19.376	3.177	3.055	1.172
Kayang sewage 1	18.532	3.797	3.052	1.172
Kayang sewage 2	20.177	3.797	3.052	1.430
Kayang septic plant	45.443	6.476	4.955	0.000
Jungryang sewage 1	27.491	4.223	3.320	1.588
Jungryang sewage 2	17.858	2.713	2.458	1.133
Tan-Stream A	20.729	3.578	3.231	1.258
Tan-Stream (mixed)	20.472	3.633	3.077	1.270

As seen from Table 2, when seeing the resulting data of analyzing elements sampled from the sewage sludge, it was found that relatively large amount of carbon element (17 to 45%) and nitrogen (2.5 to 5.0%) were contained in the sludge. Furthermore, although not provided to Table 2, the amount of contents as well as that of eluent of heavy metal is very low in the sewage sludge. Therefore, it may be found that

the sewage sludge has the condition for growing the sulfate-reducing bacteria.

Table 3 shows the compared density of the sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in sewage sludge from the various provinces in Korea.

**Table 3**

Sludge sampled from	(MPN/ml)
Nanji sewage 1	$2.8 \times 10^6$
Nanji sewage 2	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Nanji septic plant	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Tan-Stream sewage	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Tan-Stream septic plant	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Kayang sewage 1	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Kayang sewage 2	$9.3 \times 10^6$
Kayang septic plant	$4.6 \times 10^7$
Keumcheon the drainage	$4.6 \times 10^7$
Jungryang sewage 1	$1.5 \times 10^7$
Jungryang sewage 2	$4.6 \times 10^7$
Incineration ash	0

As seen from Table 3, when seeing the resulting data of analyzing elements sampled from the sewage sludge, it was also found that relatively large amount of sulfate-reducing bacteria were contained in the sludge. However, no sulfate-reducing bacterium exists in the incineration ash.

An alternative example of the organic waste containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria includes the soil from the paddy field. The sulfate-reducing bacteria exist as mainly being a form of condensed accumulation sizing from several tens to hundreds of  $\mu\text{m}$  in the soil of paddy field, and exist as a form of condensed accumulation in stream bed.

Furthermore, An alternative example of the organic waste containing the sulfate-

reducing bacteria includes the landfills of trash and/or wastes.

Table 4 provides the result of determining the density of sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in the trash and/or wastes filled in Nanji-do landfill.

**Table 4**

Depth of filling-up (m)	1 (MPN/ml)		2 (MPN/ml)	
	30° C	50° C	30° C	50° C
0-6	$1.5 \times 10^5$	$2.1 \times 10^3$	$7.0 \times 10^2$	43
6-12	$1.5 \times 10^5$	40	$1.5 \times 10^4$	$2.4 \times 10^3$
12-18	$1.5 \times 10^3$	40	$7.0 \times 10^2$	$7.0 \times 10^2$
18-24	$9.3 \times 10^2$	$7.0 \times 10^2$	$4.6 \times 10^4$	$1.1 \times 10^5$
24-30	$4.3 \times 10^2$	90	$1.1 \times 10^3$	$2.4 \times 10^4$
30-36	$2.3 \times 10^2$	$1.5 \times 10^2$	$2.1 \times 10^3$	$4.6 \times 10^4$
36-42	$7.5 \times 10^4$	$4.3 \times 10^4$	$2.4 \times 10^2$	70
42-48	$4.3 \times 10^2$	$2.4 \times 10^2$	$1.5 \times 10^2$	$4.3 \times 10^2$
48-54	$2.4 \times 10^3$	$1.5 \times 10^3$	$1.5 \times 10^3$	$2.4 \times 10^3$
54-60	$4.3 \times 10^4$	$4.3 \times 10^3$	$4.6 \times 10^4$	$9.3 \times 10^2$

As shown in Table 4, not a little amount of sulfate-reducing bacteria was distributed in the trash/wastes buried in Nanji-do landfill, up to  $10^5$ MPN/ml. Furthermore, although not shown in Table 4, not a little amount of sulfate-reducing bacteria was also distributed in the trash/wastes from the other landfills.

Aforementioned, the reason that not a little amount of sulfate-reducing bacteria exists in the sampled trash/wastes from the landfills is that the landfills of the trash/wastes adjust the anaerobic condition, and the various kinds of organic material exist in a mass

According to another aspect of the present invention, a method is provided for removing the heavy metal in the incineration ash by using the sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in the natural system with the anaerobic condition of the ecological environment,

which includes the organic wastes. In other words, the present invention uses sulfur component contained in the incineration ash, and the organic material and the sulfate-reducing bacteria contained in the organic wastes, in order to treat the harmful heavy metal in the incineration ash in a stable manner.

5       The propagation of sulfate-reducing bacteria in the incineration ash and the reduction of sulfates may be explained by the following experiments.

          Considering that the common landfills exhibit at least almost anaerobic or fully anaerobic condition with a low level of Oxidation-Reduction Potential (ORP), each 50 grams of bottom ash and fly ash and 500ml of distilled water were introduced into a  
10   1000ml volume of container, and 4g of sewage sludge were added. After reducing by use of CO<sub>2</sub> gas and sealing, the bacteria in the container were cultured at 30° C. After 2 to 3 days, ORP value was determined as being -300mV or below, and the color was changed to red, which represents the propagation of sulfate-reducing bacteria.

          Furthermore, it was reported that the addition of aqueous soil extract containing the  
15   sulfate-reducing bacteria to the incineration ash in a glass column tube promote the reduction of sulfates.

          Therefore, since the sulfate-reducing bacteria can actively act in the common landfills exhibiting at least almost anaerobic or fully anaerobic condition with a low level of Oxidation-Reduction Potential (ORP), a co-treatment of the incineration ash and the  
20   sewage sludge fulfills the said condition.

          As mentioned above, in a treatment of the incineration ash, the use of organic wastes as the sulfate-reducing bacteria may result in a synergic effect enabling the co-treatment of heavy metal as well as organic material in the organic wastes. Furthermore, it is possible to increase the ratio of removing the heavy metals in the incineration ash by



the anaerobic condition formed by the sulfate-reducing bacteria as well as the other kinds of bacteria existing in the organic wastes and decomposing the organic compounds. Furthermore, the organic wastes themselves can also be stabilized due to the active anabolism of sulfate-reducing bacteria.

5 In other words, in case that the incineration ash (sulfates + heavy metal) and the organic wastes (organic material + sulfate-reducing bacteria) containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria are co-treated, an effect of insolubilizing the heavy metal and removing the organic material may result, and it may be applied to the treatment of a hardly decomposing organic material or the wastewater containing the heavy metal and the  
10 wastewater sludge.

#### **Brief Description of Drawings**

Fig. 1 shows the amount of heavy metals contained in the incineration ash.

Fig. 2 shows the amount of heavy metals eluate exuding out of the incineration ash.

15 Fig. 3 shows the result of analysis for the elements of the incineration ash by use of element analyzer.

Fig. 4 shows the schematic pathway of the sulfates to be reduced into the sulfides by the sulfate-reducing bacteria.

Fig. 5 shows the insolubility of heavy metals caused by the sulfate-reducing  
20 bacteria.

Fig. 6 schematically shows the process of Example 1 for carrying out the method for treatment of the incineration ash according to the invention.

Figs. 7a to 7d provide the explanation of the types of the unit stacks buried in the landfill.

Figs 8a to 8c schematically show the process of Example 2 for carrying out the method for treatment of the incineration ash according to the invention.

### Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

5 Hereinafter, a novel method according to the present invention will be described in detail by the examples for land-filling the incineration ash containing the heavy metal and the wastewater sludge, which comprises the first steps of removing the organic materials together with heavy metals, recovering the heavy metals, and using the conventional structure for utilizing the sulfate-reducing bacteria in the burying plant according to the  
10 reasonable plan in consideration of the properties of mutual relation between the bacteria and landfill.

Example 1 according to the method of the invention for treatment of the incineration ash provides a filling-up structure of landfill, which comprises: the first layer including the incineration ash and sewage sludge, and another layer covering the first  
15 layer with soil.

Fig.6 schematically shows the process of Example 1 for carrying out the method for treatment of the incineration ash according to the invention.

As shown in the drawings, below portion of the filling-up structure of landfill is provided a waterproofing barrier(61) and a drainage net system of leachate(62), and such  
20 units of the filling-up structure(63) are arranged to comprise the repeated layers. Each unit of the filling-up structure(63) should be covered by the layer of covering soil(64).

As seen from Figs. 7a to 7d, the units of the filling-up structure(63) may be constructed in the various manner of accumulating or mixing the incineration ash and sewage sludge.

For instance, as seen from Fig. 7a, after filling up the sewage sludge (A), the incineration ash (B) is filed up on the first layer, and the layer of covering soil (64) may be covered; as seen from Fig. 7b, after filling up the mixed trash (A+B) comprising the sewage sludge (A) and the incineration ash (B), the layer of covering soil (64) may be covered; as seen from Fig. 7c, after filling up the sewage sludge (A), the city trash (C) and the incineration ash (B) are sequentially filed up on the first layer, and the layer of covering soil (64) may be covered; or as seen from Fig. 7d, after filling up the mixed trash (A+B+C) comprising the sewage sludge (A), the incineration ash (B) and the city trash (C), the layer of covering soil (64) may be covered.

The filling-up structure of landfill having the predetermined size may be formed by the repeated work for constructing the units of filling-up structure (63). On the upper end of the filling-up structure in landfill, the final layer of covering soil (66) is laid. The reference number 67, which was not explained, indicates a bank supporting such filling-up structure of landfill, and the reference number 67 indicates the drainage for flowing out the rainwater.

In the filling-up structure of landfill, the other portions of the plant except those for filling-up may follow the general standard required for filling-up industry.

As aforementioned, in a unit of the filling-up structure (63), the sulfate-reducing bacteria in the sewage sludge convert the sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ ) into the sulfides ( $\text{S}^{-2}$ ) using the energy produced during the anabolism of the bacteria which utilize the organic material in the sewage sludge, and the sulfides ( $\text{S}^{-2}$ ) binds to the heavy metal in the incineration ash to form a insoluble metal sulfides in a solid form. Therefore, the heavy metal in the incineration ash is solidified to stable metal sulfides in the units of the filling-up structure (63). Since the components in the landfill are hardly eluded in the leachate and so forth,

the heavy metals in the incineration ash can be stabilized in an insoluble form.

The remaining leachate from the sewage sludge or the city trash after the step of filling up, may be drained through the drainage net system of leachate(62). The leachate drained through the drainage net system of leachate(62) may flow out through another route, such as leachate pool or reaction chamber, or re-injected into the landfill to carry out the leachate recycling pathway, by which the effects of insolubilization and stabilization of the heavy metals in the incineration ash may be amplified by the adopted bacteria.

Figs 8a to 8c schematically show the process of Example 2 for carrying out the method for treatment of the incineration ash according to the invention.

Example 2 provides a method for treatment of leachate from the landfills in which the incineration ash, the city trash and the sewage sludge have been separately filled up, by treating them with the anaerobic condition.

Referring to Fig. 8a, the leachate (81) from the region of the incineration ash and the leachate (82) from the region of the sewage sludge in the landfill are collected in one reaction plant (85). To this, the leachate (83) from the region of the city trash may also be added for using the sulfate-reducing bacteria from the region of the city trash.

The reference number 86, which was not explained, indicates the mixture of each leachate from the incineration ash, the sewage sludge and the city trash.

Referring to Fig. 8b, in the mixture (86) in the reaction plant (85), the heavy metals existing in the leachate from the incineration ash may be precipitated by the action of sulfate-reducing bacteria in the sewage sludge. The mechanism of such reaction was aforementioned

Referring to Fig. 8c, the precipitated heavy metal (87) and the remaining reaction

product (88) are separately drained out and treated. In this stage, since the precipitated heavy metal (87) may be recovered through the additional apparatus for recovering the heavy metal, an advantage of the possible re-use of resources may be accomplished. Furthermore, since the reaction production may contain an amount of the sulfate-reducing bacteria adopted to the anaerobic condition, it may be reused in the process for treatment of the incineration ash.

### Industrial Applicability

The present invention enables the conversion of heavy metals in the incineration ash into the stable metal sulfides in the form of insolubilized precipitates, thereby significantly reducing the possibility of contaminating the surrounding soils and underground water caused by the elution of heavy metals during the treatment of incineration ash. Furthermore, in case that an organic waste such as the sewage sludge which contains the sulfate-reducing bacteria as the sulfate-reducing microorganism source, a synergic effects for treating the heavy metals existing in the sludge may also be expected. Moreover, another kinds of bacteria existing in the waste sludge besides the sulfate-reducing bacteria may amplify the effect for removing the heavy metals from the incineration ash. Such active metabolism of the sulfate-reducing bacteria can effectively promote the stabilization of sewage sludge.

The invention can solve the problems related to the treatment and disposal of the large amount of waste sludge and incineration ash, by the method according to the invention for treating the incineration ash containing the heavy metal and the wastewater sludge, which makes the heavy metal existing in the incineration ash insoluble and results in the stabilization of organic material by burying them in the conventional structure for

burying plant according to the reasonable plan in consideration of the properties of mutual relation between them.

Furthermore, although it was difficult for securing a region suitable for using as the landfills and much cost were consumed under the circumstance of the prior arts, it is the advantage of the invention that it may not be difficult any more for securing the region for using as the landfills, and not much costs are required for the process, due to filling up the incineration ash together with city trash.

Although the present invention have specifically been described by way of the detailed examples, it is not intended to limit the spirit and scope of the invention within those description, and the skilled man in the art will be able to embody the various changes without departing from the scope of the invention as described in the specification and claimed in the attached claims.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of treating the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, wherein a mutual relation in using nutrients exists between the incineration ash containing the heavy metal and the organic wastes containing the wastewater sludge and sulfate-reducing bacteria, comprising the steps of:

burying the incineration ash together with the organic wastes under the ground, in which the bacteria reduce the sulfates existing in the incineration ash to form the sulfides;

binding the formed sulfides with the heavy metal to form the insoluble metal sulfides, in order to prevent the heavy metal from exuding out of the incineration ash as the eluate.

2. The method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the said organic wastes comprise the sewage sludge containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria.

3. A method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, comprising: burying the incineration ash together with the organic wastes containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria under the ground, and covering them with a depth of soil, so that the said sulfate-reducing bacteria promote the heavy metal to precipitate in the form of dissoluble metal sulfides, in order to prevent the heavy metal from exuding out of the incineration ash as the eluate.

4. The method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that two or more unit stages of the buried

accumulation, each of which includes the incineration ash and the organic wastes containing the sulfate-reducing bacteria, are constructed in a predetermined pattern of arrangement, and the layer of covering soil forms a barrier which defines the boundary between the said unit stages of the buried accumulation.

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5 The method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge as claimed in claims 3 or 4, characterized in that the said organic wastes comprise the sewage sludge containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria.

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6. A method for treatment of the incineration ash and the wastewater sludge, which comprising the steps:

collecting and mixing the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash and the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria in a disposal plant; and

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reacting both the aqueous elutes so that the said sulfate-reducing bacteria existing in the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste deposits the heavy metals from the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash as the insoluble metal sulfides, which results in the disposal of the aqueous eluate exuding out of the incineration ash and the aqueous eluate exuding out of the organic waste.

20

7. The method for treatment of the incineration ash and the waste as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a portion of the precipitated insoluble metal sulfides is extracted from the reaction plant, and only the desired heavy metal is recovered through the further reaction process, in order to reuse the resources.



8. The method for treatment of the incineration ash and the waste as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the said organic wastes comprise the sewage sludge containing the said sulfate-reducing bacteria.

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FIG.1

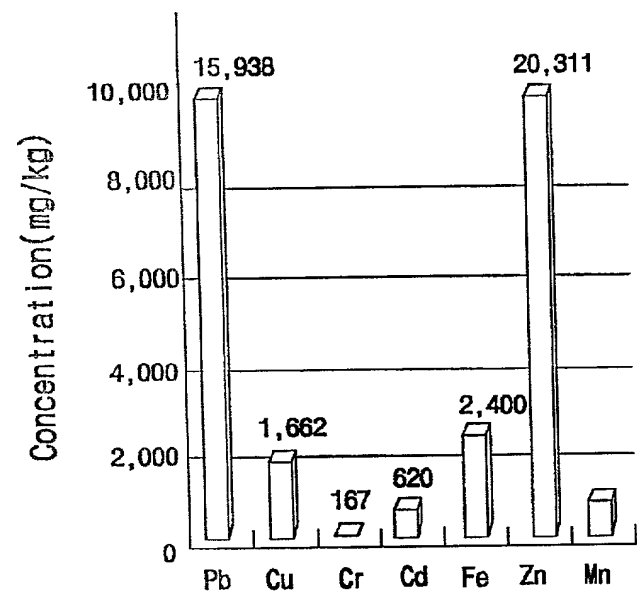
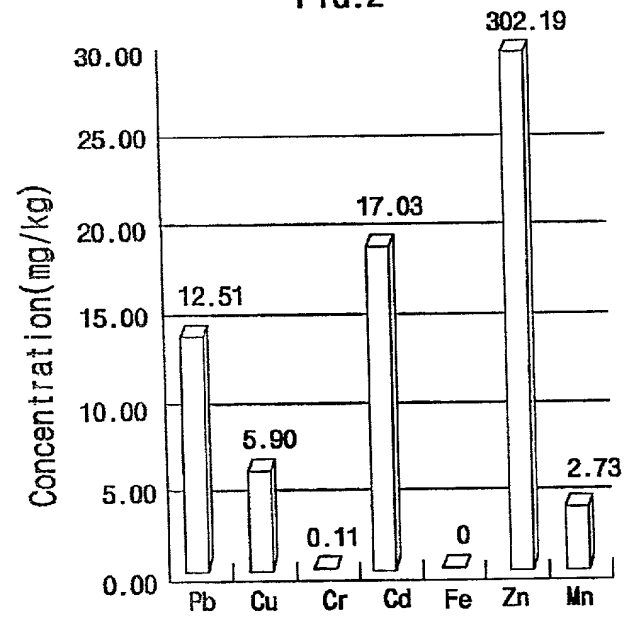


FIG.2



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FIG.3

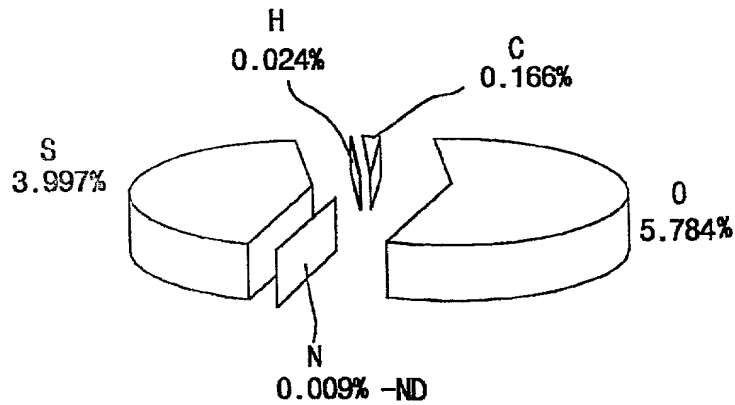
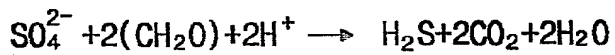
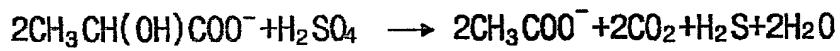
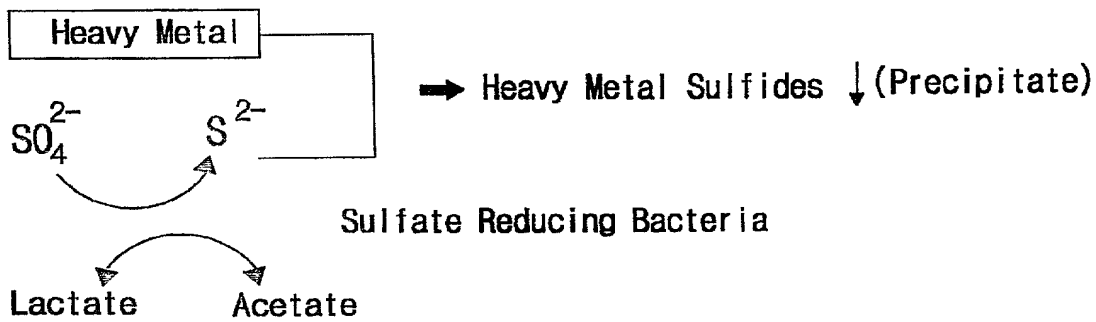
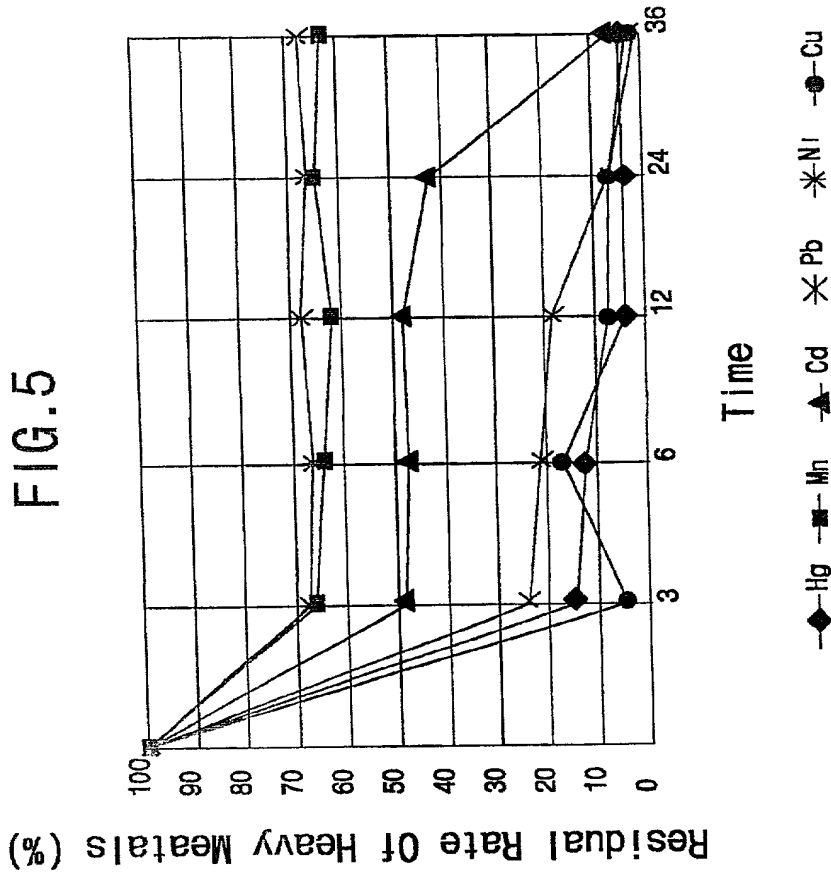


FIG.4

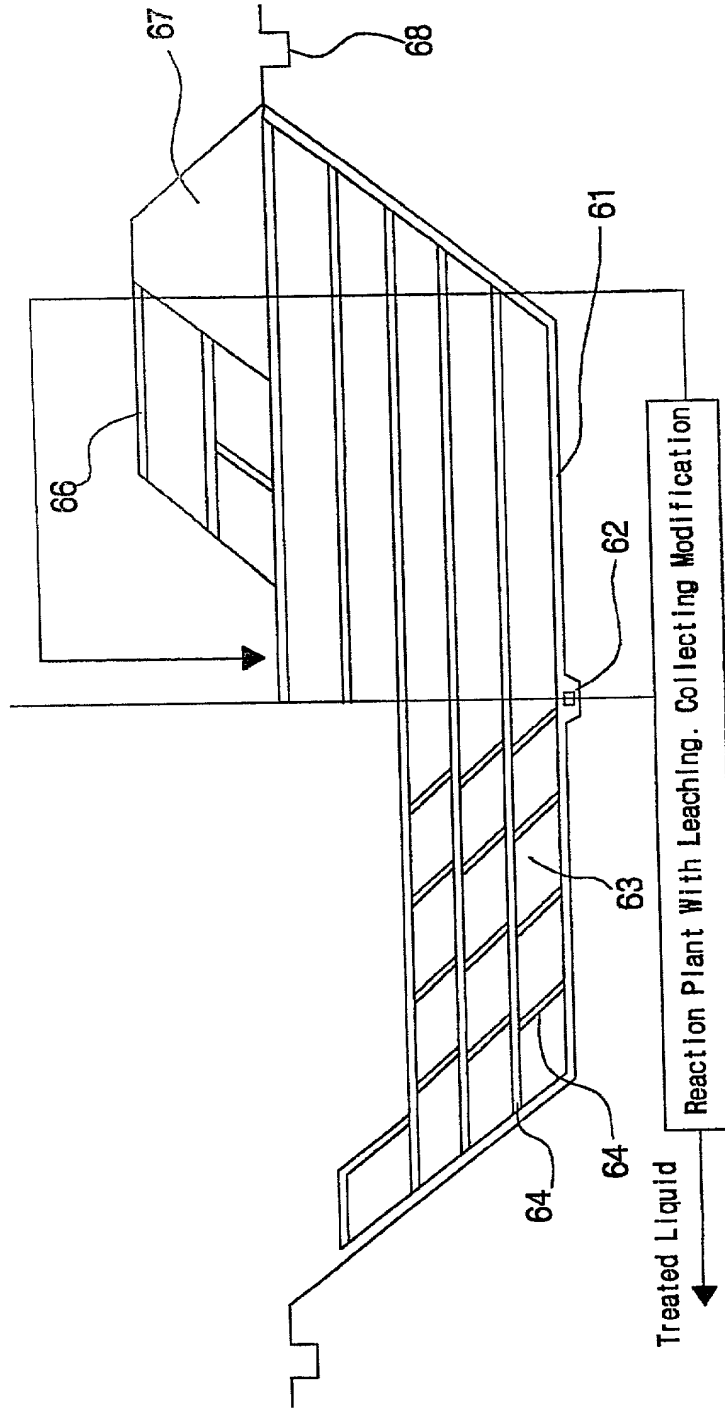


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FIG. 6



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FIG. 7A

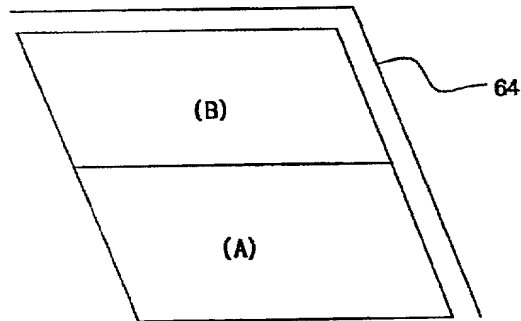
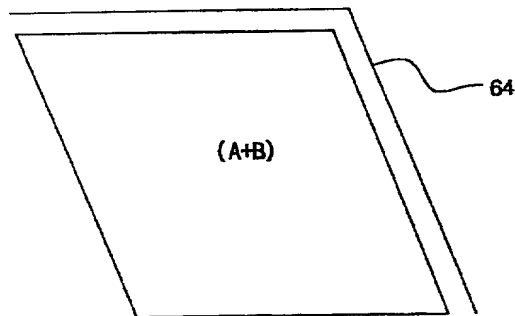


FIG. 7B



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FIG. 7C

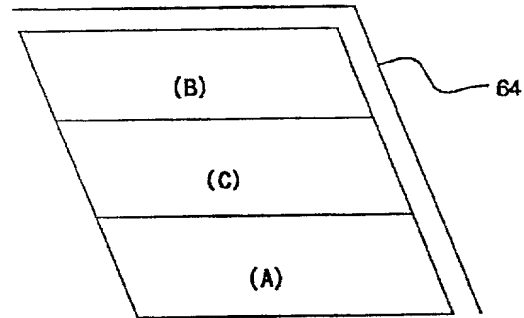
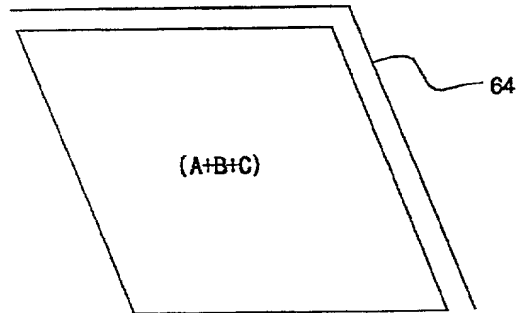


FIG. 7D



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FIG. 8A

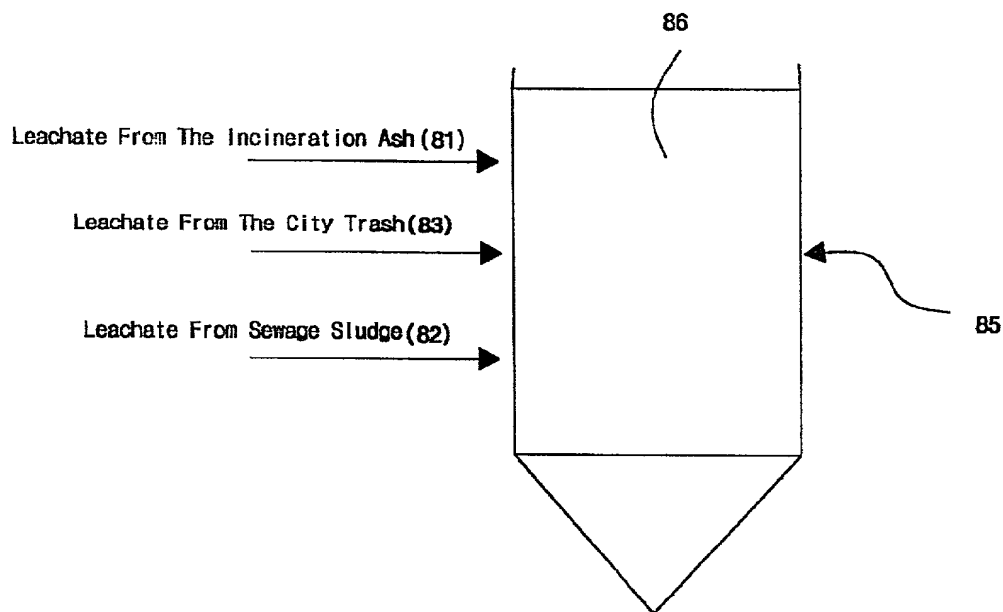
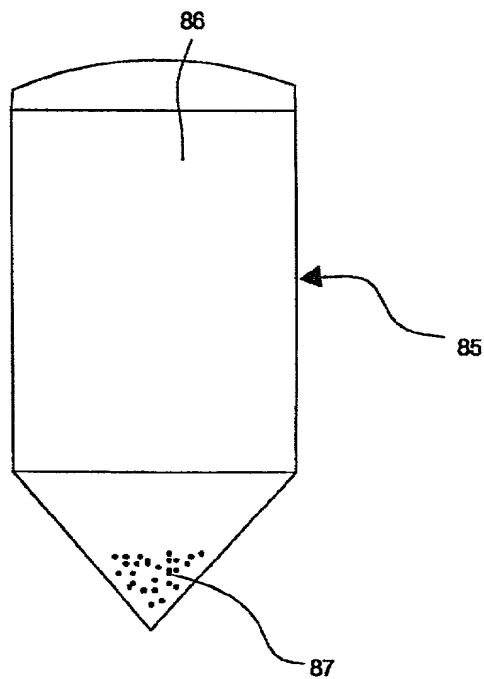


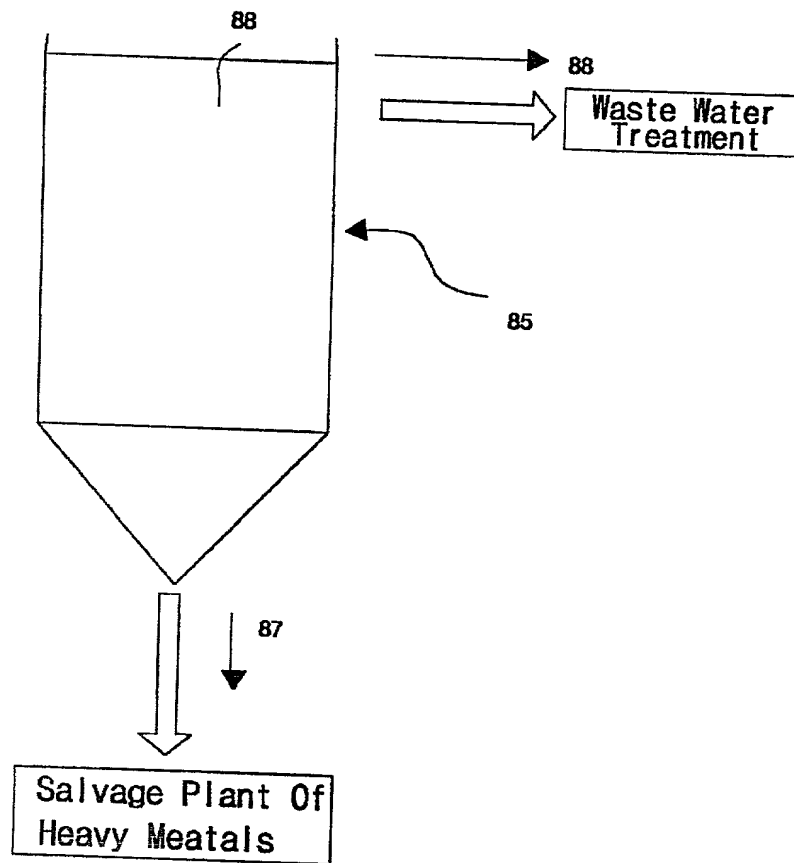
FIG. 8B





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FIG. 8C



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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Insert Title:

METHOD OF TREATING INCINERATION ASHES WITH SULFATE REDUCING BACTERIAFill in Appropriate  
Information -  
For Use Without  
Specification  
Attached:

the specification of which is attached hereto. If not attached hereto,

the specification was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

United States Application Number \_\_\_\_\_;

and amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) and/or

the specification was filed on August 18, 2000International Application Number PCT/KR00/00922; and was

amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representative or assigns more than twelve months (six months for designs) prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Application(s)****Priority Claimed**Insert Priority  
Information:  
(if appropriate)

<u>1999/34333</u>	<u>Korea</u>	<u>August 19, 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Month/Day/Year Filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Month/Day/Year Filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Month/Day/Year Filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Month/Day/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional applications(s) listed below.

Insert Provisional  
Application(s):  
(if any)

_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

All Foreign Applications, if any, for any Patent or Inventor's Certificate Filed More than 12 Months (6 Months for Designs) Prior to the Filing Date of This Application:

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (Month/Day/Year)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Insert Requested  
Information:  
(if appropriate)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States and/or PCT application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States and/or PCT application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Insert Prior U.S.  
Application(s):  
(if any)

_____	_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the practitioners at CUSTOMER NO. 2292 as my attorneys or agents to prosecute this application and/or an international application based on this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and in connection with the resulting patent based on instructions received from the entity who first sent the application papers to the practitioners, unless the inventor(s) or assignee provides said practitioners with a written notice to the contrary:

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Inventor, if any:  
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Inventor, if any:  
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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GIVEN NAME/FAMILY NAME	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE*
Residence (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
MAILING ADDRESS (Complete Street Address including City, State & Country)		
GIVEN NAME/FAMILY NAME	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE*
Residence (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
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GIVEN NAME/FAMILY NAME	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE*
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GIVEN NAME/FAMILY NAME	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE*
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